



Surname of the week: "Murphy"



Alternate Spellings: Morchoe, O'Murphy, Murfie, Murfree, Morfie, Morfey, Murphey and more
Meaning: "Sea-Warrior"

Motto: "Fortis et hospitalis" (Brave and hospitable).

War-Cry: "vincere vel mori" (win or die)

Origins and variants

The surname Murphy is the most common of all Irish names and is to be found in all four provinces. It is also popular in the USA where it was the 58th most common surname based on the 2000 census. In 1990 the Irish telephone directory had over 52,500 Murphy subscribers. Worldwide Murphy is a very common surname and has been attached to various objects to set it apart from its counterparts, like the Murphy-Bed, Murphy-Beer, Murphy-Pin and various other objects.

Murphy is the anglicised version of two Irish surnames, MacMurchadha and O'Murchadha, both derived from the early Irish personal name Murchadh, meaning 'sea-warrior'. As Ireland was under Viking control for several centuries, the name meaning 'sea warrior' is probably more than a coincidence.

The name derives from a number of Gaelic O'Murchadha septs, the main ones of which were located in Cork, Carlow, Armagh and Wexford. The most prominent of these were the Wexford Ui Murchadha who took their surname from Murchadh or Murrough, grandfather of Dermot MacMurrough, King of Leinster. A section of this clan moved west to Counties Cork and Kerry in the early 17th century, and is particularly associated with the barony of Muskerry. John Murphy (1700 - 1770), better known as Sean O' Murchadha na Raithineach, was the last chief of the famous bards of Blarney Castle. The majority of those Murphy descendants now hail from County Cork.

In Ulster the MacMurchadha sept were part of the Cineal Eoghain, who claimed descent from Eoghan, a son of the 5th century Niall of the Nine Hostages, who was reputedly responsible for the kidnapping of St Patrick to Ireland. The Ulster Murphys (or MacMurphys) were originally based in County Tyrone, but were driven out by the O'Neills and settled in south Armagh, where they were subjects of the O'Neills of the Fews. A chief from this section was Flaherty O' Murphy, recorded in the Annals of Tir Boghainne, County Donegal. From this it is evident that that the Murphys were and are widespread in Ulster and today the surname is most numerous in County Armagh, but can also be found in great numbers in Fermanagh and Monaghan.

In Griffiths Valuation c1850s, a total of 13,539 Murphy households were recorded in Ireland, making it the most numerous of Irish surnames in the mid-19th century. The surname was most prevalent in Cork, Wexford and Kilkenny, whilst the least occurrence of the name at that time was in Donegal and Derry.

Other variations include: Morchoe, O'Murphy, Murfie, Murfree, Morfie, Morfey, Murphey, Murchadh, Murphey, MacMurphy, MacMurrough, Morphy, O'Morchoe, O'Murphy, Murray, Morrow, MacMorrow and many more.

Murphy's Law

The perceived perversity of the universe has long been a subject of comment, and precursors to the modern version of Murphy's Law are not hard to find. The concept may be as old as humanity. Recent significant research in this area has been conducted by members of the American Dialect Society. Society member Stephen Goranson has found a version of the law, not yet generalized or bearing that name, in a report by Alfred Holt at an 1877 meeting of an engineering society.

It is found that anything that can go wrong at sea generally does go wrong sooner or later, so it is not to be wondered that owners prefer the safe to the scientific.... Sufficient stress can hardly be laid on the advantages of simplicity. The human factor cannot be safely neglected in planning machinery. If attention is to be obtained, the engine must be such that the engineer will be disposed to attend to it.

Mathematician Augustus De Morgan wrote on June 23, 1866: "The first experiment already illustrates a truth of the theory, well confirmed by practice, what-ever can happen will happen if we make trials enough." In later publications "whatever can happen will happen" occasionally is termed "Murphy's law," which raises the possibility—if something went wrong—that "Murphy" is "De Morgan" misremembered (an option, among others, raised by Goranson on the American Dialect Society list).

American Dialect Society member Bill Mullins has found a slightly broader version of the aphorism in reference to stage magic. The British stage magician Nevil Maskelyne wrote in 1908:

It is an experience common to all men to find that, on any special occasion, such as the production of a magical effect for the first time in public, everything that can go wrong will go wrong. Whether we must attribute this to the malignity of matter or to the total depravity of inanimate things, whether the exciting cause is hurry, worry, or what not, the fact remains.

In 1948, humourist Paul Jennings coined the term resistentialism, a jocular play on resistance and existentialism, to describe "seemingly spiteful behaviour manifested by inanimate objects", [6] where objects that cause problems (like lost keys or a runaway bouncy ball) are said to exhibit a high degree of malice toward humans.

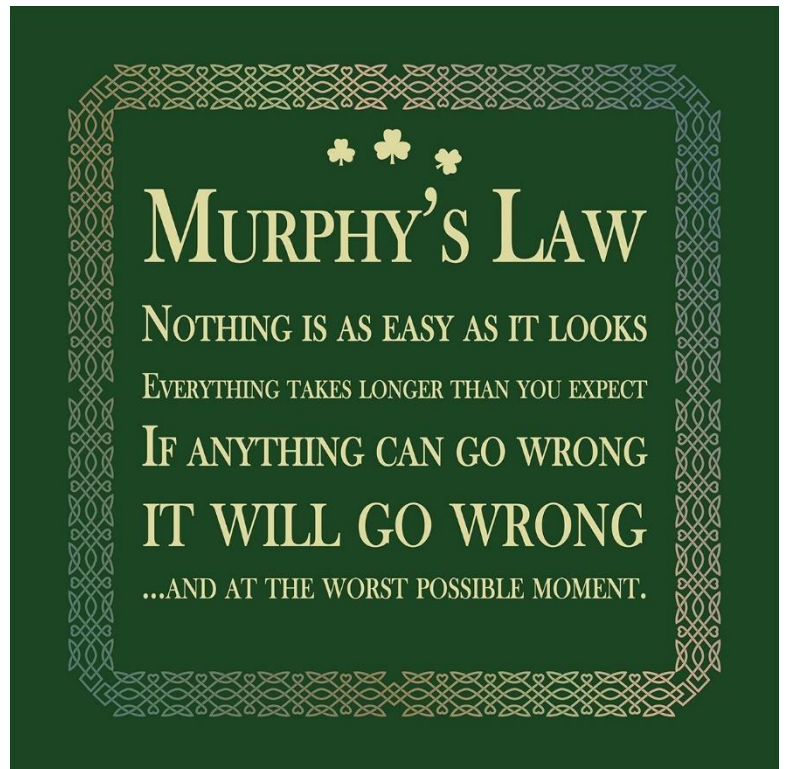
The contemporary form of Murphy's Law goes back as far as 1952, as an epigraph to a mountaineering book by John Sack, who described it as an "ancient mountaineering adage":

Anything that can possibly go wrong, does.

People with the Murphy surname

Men

- Murphy, baseball player
- Murphy (wrestler), several wrestlers named or nicknamed Murphy
- Alex Murphy (rugby league) (born 1939), English rugby league footballer
- Anthony Murphy (cricketer) (born 1962), English cricketer
- Arthur Murphy, :
 - Arthur Murphy (writer) (1727–1805), Irish actor and playwright



- Arthur H. Murphy (1831–1903), entrepreneur and political figure in Quebec, Canada
 - Arthur P. Murphy (1870–1914), American Republican politician
- Audie Murphy (1925–1971), American war hero and actor
- Austin J. Murphy (born 1927), Democratic Congressman from Pennsylvania
- Barnes Murphy (born 1947), former Gaelic footballer for Sligo
- Bob Murphy, , see Robert Murphy
- Bos Murphy (1924–2000), New Zealander boxer of the 1940s and 1950s
- Brian Murphy, :
 - Brian Murphy (actor) (born 1933), British actor most noted for his role as George Roper in the sitcom *George and Mildred*
 - Brian Murphy (baseball) (born 1980), American college baseball coach
 - Brian Murphy (politician) (born 1961), former mayor of Moncton in New Brunswick, Canada
 - Brian Murphy (cricketer) (born 1976), former captain of the Zimbabwean cricket team
 - Brian Murphy (dual player) (born 1952), former hurler and Gaelic footballer with Cork, Ireland
 - Brian Murphy (soccer player) (born 1983), currently playing for Cardiff City F.C.
 - Brian Murphy (politician) (born 1956), first to win independent race in his town
 - Brian Murphy (hurler, born 1982) (born 1982), corner-back on the Cork, Ireland, senior hurling team
 - Brian Murphy (writer) (born 1959), religion editor for the Associated Press
- Buddy Murphy, Australian professional wrestler
- Calvin Murphy (born 1948), American retired basketball player
- Charles Murphy, :
 - Charles Murphy (1880–1958), Irish politician more commonly referred to as Cathal Ó Murchadha
 - Charles Murphy (architect) (1890–1985), the Chicago-based architect of C.F. Murphy Associates, later Murphy/Jahn Inc.
 - Charles Murphy (Canadian politician) (1862–1935)
 - Charles Francis Murphy (1858–1924), American political figure
 - Charles Minthorn Murphy (1870–1950), a.k.a. "Mile-a-Minute" Murphy, American cyclist
 - Charles Quinton Murphy (1959–2017), American writer, actor, and stand-up comedian
 - Charles Terrence Murphy (Canadian politician) (born 1926), Canadian politician
- Chris Murphy (born 1973), United States Senator from Connecticut
- Ciarán Murphy, Irish T.D.* Cillian Murphy (born 1976), Irish actor
- Colin Murphy, :
 - Colin Murphy, Irish comedian
 - Colin Murphy (ice hockey) (born 1980), Canadian ice-hockey player
 - a different, Anglicized, spelling of Colm Murphy (born 1952), Irish, alleged suspect in the Omagh bombing
- Conor Murphy, Sinn Féin politician in Northern Ireland
- Dale Murphy, :
 - Dale Murphy (born 1956), American retired baseball player
 - Dale D. Murphy, professor at Georgetown University
- Daniel Murphy,
- Danny Murphy,
- Darren Murphy (1961–2012) bassist with Indie band Wasted Youth.
- Darren Murphy, Irish professional football player
- Daryl Murphy, Irish professional football player
- David Murphy, :
 - David Murphy (baseball) (born 1981), American
 - David Murphy, CIA's station chief in Berlin from 1959–1961
 - David Murphy (footballer, born 1984), English
 - David Lee Murphy (born 1959), American country music singer-songwriter
- Dick Murphy (born 1942), American retired Republican politician
- Donald E. Murphy (born 1960), American Republican politician
 - Donnie Murphy (born 1983), American Baseball Player
- Derek Murphy, (born 1968) American Rapper a.k.a. Sadat X
- Eddie Murphy, :
 - Eddie Murphy (born 1961), American comedian and actor
 - Eddie Murphy (1891–1969), American baseball player

- Edgar Gardner Murphy (1869–1913), American clergyman and author
- Edward Murphy, , most notably:
 - Major Edward A. Murphy, Jr. 1918–1990, American aerospace engineer linked with Murphy's law
- Elliott Murphy (born 1949), American singer/songwriter
- Erik Murphy (born 1990), American–Finnish basketball player
- Everett J. Murphy (1852–1922), politician
- Francis Murphy, :
 - Francis Murphy (bishop) (1795–1858), Australian bishop
 - Francis Murphy (evangelist) (1836–1907), American temperance evangelist
 - Francis P. Murphy (1877–1958), Republican 73rd Governor of New Hampshire
 - Francis X. Murphy (1915–2002), Catholic theologian and chaplain
- Frank Murphy, :
 - Frank Murphy (1890–1949), former Justice of the United States Supreme Court
 - Frank Murphy (American football) (born 1977), former NFL player
 - Frank Murphy (rugby player) (born 1981), Irish professional rugby union player
 - B. Frank Murphy (1867–1938), US Representative from Ohio
- Fred Murphy,
 - Fred Murphy, American cinematographer
 - Fred J. Murphy, American football coach
 - Fred Murphy, American gridiron football player
- Gary Murphy (1971) Irish Mathematician and inventor of the Dyson shirt dryer
- Geoffrey Mostyn Murphy (1922–2011), Australian boxer, better known as Tommy Burns
- Glen Murphy (1957), British actor
- George Murphy (1902–1992), American dancer, actor, and Republican Senator
- Henry Murphy, :
 - Henry Murphy (1877–1954), American architect
 - Henry Cruse Murphy (1810–1882), American politician from New York and US minister to the Netherlands
- Isaac Murphy, two people:
 - Isaac Murphy (1802–1882), Republican Governor of Arkansas
 - Isaac Burns Murphy (1861–1896), American Hall of Fame jockey
- Jack Murphy, :
 - Jack Murphy (Irish politician) (1920–1984), Irish republican and independent politician
 - Jack Murphy (footballer) (born 1918), retired Australian Rules footballer
 - Jack Murphy (sportswriter) (1923–1980), American sportswriter and brother of Bob Murphy
 - Jack M. Murphy (1925–1984), Republican Lieutenant Governor of Idaho
 - Jack Roland Murphy (born 1938), a.k.a. *Murph the Surf*, American, convicted robber and murderer
- Jacob Murphy (born 1995), English footballer
- James or Jimmy Murphy, :
 - James Murphy (electronic musician) (born 1970), American
 - James Murphy (metal guitarist) (born 1967), American heavy metal guitarist
 - James Murphy, retired American soccer player
 - James "Quick" Murphy (born 1959), retired Canadian football player
 - James A. Murphy III, District Attorney, Saratoga County, New York
 - James Anthony Murphy (1894–1924), "Jimmy" Murphy, American racing driver
 - James J. Murphy (1898–1962), a United States Representative from New York
 - James William Murphy (1858–1927), a United States Representative from Wisconsin
 - Jimmy Murphy (cartoonist) (1891–1965), cartoonist of *Toots and Casper* comic strip
 - Jimmy Murphy (footballer) (1910–1989), Welsh football player and manager
 - Jimmy Murphy, (1925–1981), American Country musician
 - Jimmy Murphy (playwright) (born 1962), Irish playwright
- Jim Murphy, :
 - Jim Murphy, (born 1967), British Labour Party politician
 - Jim Murphy, (born 1947), American author
 - Jim Murphy, (born 1942), former Scottish professional footballer
 - Jim Murphy, (born 1957), member of the Texas House of Representatives
- John Murphy, :

- John Murphy (Alabama) (1786–1841), American Democratic Governor and Congressman from Alabama
- John Murphy, American football announcer for the Buffalo Bills
- John Murphy (Australian politician) (born 1950), member of the House of Representatives
- John Murphy (Australian rules footballer) (born 1949), former champion player with the Fitzroy Football Club in the 1960s and 1970s
- John Murphy (baseball infielder) (died 1949), a.k.a. *Soldier Boy*, a baseball infielder
- John Murphy, a 19th-century baseball pitcher
- John Murphy (Canadian politician) (born 1937), member of the Canadian House of Commons from 1993–1997
- John Murphy (composer) (born 1965), British composer of film scores
- John Murphy, financial market analyst
- John Murphy (footballer, born 1976) (born 1976), English football striker for Chester City
- John Murphy (musician) (born 1959), sometimes credited as "Jonh Murphy", Australian drummer and multi-instrument musician
- John Murphy (playwright) (1929–1998), Irish dramatist, author of *The Country Boy*.
- John Murphy (swimmer) (born 1953), retired American Olympic gold medalist in swimming
- Father John Murphy (1753–1798), one of the leaders during the Irish Rebellion of 1798
- John A. Murphy (born 1927), Irish historian and former independent Senator from Cork
- John Alphonsus Murphy, American Medal of Honor recipient
- John Benjamin Murphy (1857–1916), American surgeon, president of the American Medical Association in 1911
- John E. Murphy (1869–1941), United States Navy sailor and Medal of Honor recipient during the Spanish–American War
- John Francis Murphy (1853–1921), American landscape painter
- John J. Murphy (born 1959), American Republican politician
- John Michael Murphy, US Congressman from New York, implicated in Abscam
- John W. Murphy (1902–1962), American Democratic Congressman from Pennsylvania
- John W. Murphy, former mayor of New Haven, Connecticut
- Joseph Murphy,
- Josh Murphy (born 1995), English footballer
- Kevin Murphy, :
 - Kevin Murphy (actor) (born 1956), American comedian, actor, author and puppeteer
 - Kevin Murphy (linebacker) (born 1963), retired American football player
 - Kevin Murphy (ombudsman)
 - Kevin Murphy, American screenwriter, television producer, and composer
 - Kevin Murphy (swimmer) (born 1949), "King of the Channel" title holder for crossing the English Channel
 - Kevin M. Murphy, economist and professor at the University of Chicago
- Lambert Murphy (1885–?), American tenor, sang at the Metropolitan Opera
- Landau Eugene Murphy, Jr. (born 1974), American singer, winner of season 6 of *America's Got Talent*
- Larry Murphy (born 1961), Canadian retired professional ice hockey player
- Lionel Murphy (born 1922), Australian politician and jurist
- Loren E. Murphy (1882–1963), American jurist
- Marc Murphy (born 1987), Australian rules footballer
- Mark Murphy, :
 - Mark Murphy (safety b. 1958) (born 1958), retired American football player
 - Mark Murphy (safety b. 1955) (born 1955), retired American football player, now President and CEO of the Green Bay Packers
 - Mark Murphy (singer) (born c. 1932), American jazz singer
- Martin Murphy,
- Matt Murphy, :
 - Matt Murphy (American football) (born 1980), American football player
 - Matt Murphy (blues guitarist) (born 1927), a.k.a. *Matt "Guitar" Murphy*, an American musician
 - Matt Murphy (Canadian musician)
 - Matt Murphy, an American Republican Senator

- Matt Murphy (wrestler) (born 1979), a.k.a. *"All That" Matt Murphy*, a retired American professional wrestler
- Michael Murphy, :
 - Michael Murphy (actor) (born 1938), American actor
 - Michael Murphy (author) (born 1930), American Integral Movement author and co-founder of the Esalen Institute
 - Michael Murphy (diver) (born 1973), retired Australian Olympic diver
 - Michael Murphy (priest) (c. 1767 – 1798), co-leader in the Irish Rebellion of 1798
 - Michael Murphy (singer) (born 1986), New Zealand Idol runner up
 - Michael Murphy (VC) (c. 1837 – 1893), Irish recipient of the Victoria Cross
 - Michael Bryan Murphy, former lead singer of REO Speedwagon
 - Michael D. Murphy, United States Air Force Colonel under charges for falsely claiming to be an attorney
 - Michael P. Murphy (1976–2005), United States Navy SEAL and Medal of Honor recipient, killed in action in Afghanistan
 - Michael Martin Murphey (born 1945, American singer and songwriter
- Mick Murphy (Sinn Féin politician) (born 1942)
- Mickey Murphy,(Gaelic footballer), Tyrone and Galbally Pearses midfielder
- Mike Murphy, :
 - Mike Murphy (broadcaster) (born 1941), retired Irish broadcaster
 - Mike Murphy, retired ice hockey player and head coach, currently NHL vice-president of hockey operations
 - Mike Murphy, ice hockey player for the Belleville Bulls of the Ontario Hockey League
 - Mike Murphy (New Brunswick politician) (born 1958), Canadian lawyer and Liberal politician
 - Mike Murphy (political consultant) (born 1962), American Republican political consultant
 - Mike Murphy, Democratic Treasurer of the State of Washington
- Nicholas Murphy (born 1978), Gaelic footballer
- Nicholas Daniel Murphy (1811–1890), Irish politician from Cork, Member of Parliament (MP) 1865–1880
- Nick Murphy, :
 - Nick Murphy (American football) (born 1979), American football player
 - Nick Murphy (footballer born 1946) (born 1946), English footballer
 - Nick Murphy (footballer born 1966) (1966–1998), English footballer
 - Nick Murphy (writer) (born 1977), Irish writer
- Oakes Murphy (1849–1908), Two-time Governor of Arizona Territory
- Pat Murphy,
- Patrick Murphy (baseball), American baseball pitcher
- Paul Murphy,
- Peter Murphy, :
 - Peter Murphy (artist) (born 1959), British Stuckist artist
 - Peter Murphy (footballer born 1980) (born 1980), Irish international footballer
 - Peter Murphy, American lawyer and officer in the United States Marine Corps
 - Peter Murphy (musician) (born 1957), British musician with Bauhaus
 - Peter Murphy (politician) (born 1949), American politician, Member of the Maryland House of Delegates
 - Peter Murphy (UK footballer) (1922–1975), a.k.a. *"Spud" Murphy*, English footballer
 - Peter Murphy (executive) American entertainment executive
- Philip D. Murphy (born 1957), financier, diplomat, politician
- Richard Murphy, :
 - Dick Murphy (Richard M. Murphy) (born 1942), American retired Republican politician
 - Richard Murphy, Scottish architect
 - Richard Murphy (poet) (born 1927), Irish poet
 - Richard Murphy (screenwriter) (1912–1993), American film and television writer
 - Richard L. Murphy (1875–1936), American Senator from Iowa
 - Richard W. Murphy (born 1929), American diplomat
- Rob Murphy, :
 - Rob Murphy (born 1960), American retired baseball player
 - Rob Murphy, American assista basketball coach

- Rob Murphy (football player) (born 1977), professional Canadian football player
 - Rob Murphy (ice hockey) (born 1969), Canadian retired ice hockey player
- Robert Murphy, :
 - Irish Bob Murphy (1922–1961), American light heavyweight boxer
 - Bob Murphy (announcer) (1924–2004), American baseball announcer
 - Bob Murphy (golfer) (born 1943), American PGA winning golfer
 - Bob Murphy, Canadian jazz pianist
 - Robert Murphy (Australian rules footballer) (born 1982), Australian rules football
 - Robert C. Murphy (1926–2000), American lawyer and judge
 - Robert Cushman Murphy (1887–1973), American ornithologist
 - Robert Daniel Murphy (1894&ndas1978), American diplomat
 - Robert F. Murphy, American retired Republican politician, Lieutenant Governor of Massachusetts from 1957 to 1961
 - Robert F. Murphy (anthropologist) (1924–1990), American anthropologist
 - Robert P. Murphy (born 1976), American economist and author
 - Robert S. Murphy (1861–1912), American politician, Lieutenant Governor of Pennsylvania from 1907 to 1911
- Roger P. Murphy, American legislator and jurist
- Ryan Murphy, two people:
 - Ryan Murphy (Australian rules footballer) (born 1985)
 - Ryan Murphy, American television writer, director and producer
- Scott Murphy, two people:
 - Scott Murphy, former US Representative for New York's 20th congressional district
 - Scott Murphy, a programmer behind the Space Quest series
- Sean Murphy, :
 - Sean Murphy, sequential artist and writer
 - Sean Murphy, professor at Royal Holloway, University of London
 - Seán Murphy, retired Irish football player
 - Sean Murphy (golfer) (born 1965), American professional golfer
 - Sean Murphy (journalist) (born 1958), Australian journalist
 - Sean Murphy, a fictional character on the television series Oz
 - Sean Murphy (racer) (born 1984)
- Shaun Murphy, :
 - Shaun Murphy (cue sports) (born 1982), English snooker player
 - Shaun Murphy (footballer) (born 1970), retired Australian soccer player
 - note: there also is a woman of this name: Shaun Murphy, a.k.a. *Stoney*, American singer
- Shawn Murphy,
- Stephen Murphy (civil servant)
- Sydney Murphy (born 1960), retired Vincentian cricketer
- Timothy Murphy, :
 - Tim Murphy (born 1959), retired Canadian politician
 - Tim Murphy, a fictional character in Jurassic Park
 - Tim Murphy (congressman) (born 1952), American Republican politician
 - Tim Murphy, currently at Harvard University
 - Timothy Murphy (1751–1818), sniper in the American Revolutionary War
 - Timothy D. Murphy (died 1928), a.k.a. "*Big Tim*", Chicago mobster and labour racketeer
 - Timothy J. Murphy (died 1949), Irish Labour Party politician
 - Timothy Patrick Murphy (1959–1988), American film and television actor
- Thomas Murphy (or Tom),
- Tom Murphy (athlete) (born 1935), American middle distance runner
- Trent Murphy (2013), outside linebacker in the National Football League; played for the Washington Redskins and Buffalo Bills^[6]
- Troy Murphy, power forward for the Boston Celtics
- Vincent B. Murphy, NYS Comptroller 1925–1926
- Vincent J. Murphy, Mayor of Newark 1941–1949
- Wendell H. Murphy, North Carolina politician

- William Murphy,
- Yale Murphy (1869–1906), American baseball player
- Yo Murphy, football player, CFL, NFL

Women

- Brittany Murphy (1977–2009), American actress
- Dervla Murphy (born 1931), travel writer
- Carolyn Murphy (born 1975), American model
- Diana E. Murphy (1934-2018), American judge
- Donna Murphy (born 1958), American Tony Award-winning actress
- Erin Murphy, :
 - Erin Murphy (born 1964), American actress
 - Erin Murphy, American poet
 - Erin Murphy (politician) (born 1960), Minnesota politician
- Gail C. Murphy, Canadian computer scientist
- Gillian Murphy, principal dancer at American Ballet Theatre
- Julie Murphy (born 1961), Welsh singer
- Julie Murphy (author), American novelist
- Kelly Murphy (born 1977), American author and illustrator
- Margaret Mary Healy Murphy (1833–1907), American Catholic nun
- Mary Murphy, :
 - Mary Murphy (actress) (born 1931), American actress
 - Mary Murphy, American choreographer
 - Mary Murphy (politician) (born 1940), American politician and member of the Minnesota House of Representatives
- Róisín Murphy (born 1973), Irish electronica singer, songwriter, and producer
- Shaun Murphy (singer), a.k.a. *Stoney*, American singer
- Tammy Murphy (born 1965), American banker

